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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,849	12/28/2000	Yoshihisa Harada	DP-696 US	6089

7590 08/09/2004

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EXAMINER

EDELMAN, BRADLEY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

4

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,849

Applicant(s)

HARADA, YOSHIHISA

Examiner

Bradley Edelman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/23/04.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendments and request for reconsideration filed on April 19, 2004. This action is final. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination, with claims 18-24 being new claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

Examiner has considered the IDS containing the references that were initially crossed out in a previous office action. Applicant is correct that original IDS containing these references was in compliance with MPEP § 609 and 37 CFR §1.98.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 7, 18, 20, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cherkasova et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,270, hereinafter "Cherkasova").

In considering claim 7, Cherkasova discloses a network system, comprising:

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Plural clients connecting to a network, and a server connecting to the plural clients through the network (col. 3, lines 25-26, "clients" and a "server"; lines 44-46, "web server" and "web clients");

Wherein said server controls an amount of received load corresponding to the received data transferred from the plural clients (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 44-57; wherein the server admission controller determines whether the load at the server due to received requests is above a threshold, and based on the determination, decides whether to limit the load by rejecting new sessions), and

Wherein the server compares with a designated value the amount of said received load corresponding to the received data (i.e. it compares the received load to the threshold).

In considering claim 18, Cherkasova discloses a server comprising:

Means for setting a shaper value ("threshold") on a receiving capacity of said server (col. 5, lines 49-53); and

Means for comparing with said shaper value an amount of received load corresponding to data received from a plurality of clients (col. 5, lines 49-53, "if the utilization rises above a specified threshold, then for the next time interval, the admission controller 14 will reject all new sessions").

In considering claim 20, Cherkasova discloses a received load control method comprising:

Setting a shaper value ("threshold") corresponding to a data receiving capacity of a processing unit of a server (col. 5, lines 49-53);

Determining whether an amount of received data is less than said shaper value (checking whether "sufficient resources are available in the server 12," col. 5, lines 44-46);

Transmitting said amount of received data to said processing unit if said amount of received data is less than said shaper value ("if the utilization falls below the given threshold, then for the next time interval, the admission controller 14 will admit new sessions again while continuing to service existing sessions," col. 5, lines 54-57); and

Transmitting a part of said amount of said received data to said processing unit if said amount of received data is not less than said shaper value ("if the utilization rises above a specified threshold, then for the next time interval, the admission controller 14 will... service only existing sessions," col. 5, lines 51-54).

In considering claim 22, Cherkasova further discloses that the received data comprises a data packet (i.e. messages sent across the network are in data packet form).

In considering claim 23, Cherkasova further discloses that the designated value is based on a receiving capacity of said server and a predetermined margin of receiving capacity of the server (i.e. whether the amount of resources available is sufficient to service a new session, col. 5, lines 44-46).

2. Claims 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,335,224, hereinafter "Cole").

In considering claim 18, Cole discloses a server ("server 302") comprising:

Means for setting a shaper value ("threshold") on a receiving capacity of said server (col. 5, lines 36-42); and

Means for comparing with said shaper value an amount of received load corresponding to data received from a plurality of clients (col. 5, lines 37-40, "determining if the total number of bytes already in queue 301 and the number of bytes in the just-received data element is greater than the value of global congestion threshold"; col. 3, lines 67-68, describing the clients as "user data source[s] 120").

In considering claim 19, Cole further discloses means for judging whether a part of said data received should be discarded (col. 5, lines 36-49, 65-68; col. 6, lines 1-3, wherein if the threshold is exceeded, "the just-received data element is dropped, or discarded, in an attempt to alleviate the congestion").

In considering claim 20, Cole discloses a received load control method comprising:

Setting a shaper value ("threshold") corresponding to a data receiving capacity of a processing unit of a server (col. 5, lines 22-26, "thresholds... indicate whether a sub-queue for a particular channel is considered congested");

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Determining whether an amount of received data is less than said shaper value (col. 5, lines 52-55, 57-58, "determine if the local congestion threshold 503-I (Fig. 5) for the queue 501-I of the channel associated with the just-received data element is exceeded... If the test result in step 709 is NO");

Transmitting said amount of received data to said processing unit if said amount of received data is less than said shaper value (col. 5, lines 57-64, wherein "if the test result is NO, ... the just-received data element is placed in queue 301 to await service by server 302," such that all received data in the queue is serviced); and

Transmitting a part of said amount of said received data to said processing unit if said amount of received data is not less than said shaper value (col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 3, "if the test result in step 709 is YES... just-received data element is dropped, or discarded," such that only some of the data received in the queue is serviced).

In considering claim 21, Cole further discloses outputting said value to a shaper, and discarding a remaining part of said amount of said received data that exceeds said shaper value (col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 3, "if the test result in step 709 is YES... just-received data element is dropped, or discarded").

In considering claim 22, Cole further discloses that the received data comprises a data packet (i.e. col. 4, lines 12-15, "packets").

In considering claim 23, Cole further discloses that the designated value is based on a receiving capacity of said server and a predetermined margin of receiving capacity of the server (col. 6, lines 48-65, wherein p' is a threshold set at a predetermined margin from the server capacity).

In considering claim 24, Cole further discloses a server, comprising:

A comparator that compares an amount of received load corresponding to received data transferred from plural clients with a designated value (col. 5, lines 37-40, "determining if the total number of bytes already in queue 301 and the number of bytes in the just-received data element is greater than the value of global congestion threshold"; col. 3, lines 67-68, describing the clients as "user data source[s] 120"); and

A judger that judges whether a part of said received data should be discarded,

Wherein said server controls said received load corresponding to said received data transferred from said plural clients based on a judged result of said judger (col. 5, lines 36-49, 65-68; col. 6, lines 1-3, wherein if the threshold is exceeded, "the just-received data element is dropped, or discarded, in an attempt to alleviate the congestion," thereby discarding part of the globally received data).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherkasova.

In considering claim 1, Cherkasova discloses a server ("server") comprising:

Comparing means for comparing with a designated value an amount of received load corresponding to received data transferred from a plurality of clients; and

A judging means for judging whether a part of said received data should be rejected;

Wherein said server controls said received load corresponding to said received data transferred from said plural clients based on a judged result of said judging means

(col. 5, lines 49-53, "if the utilization rises above a specified threshold, then for the next time interval, the admission controller 14 will reject all new sessions," thereby controlling the received load).

However, Cherkasova does not explicitly state that the received data is necessarily "discarded." Instead, the system taught by Cherkasova describes that if the system is above threshold, the excessive messages are "unaccepted" and thus the connections are "refused." Col. 3, lines 30-33, 38-41. Cherkasova additionally discloses that "refused connections often result in aborted sessions." Col. 3, lines 41-42. Thus, while not explicitly using the word "discard", these actions of "refusing," "not accepting," and "aborting," requests or sessions when the load exceeds a threshold at least suggest getting rid of, or discarding, unwanted load caused by the client requests. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability

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and advantages of “discarding” packets instead of deferring them, because immediate discarding of packets would eliminate the need for extra deferral resources at the server. Thus, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 2, Cherkasova further discloses that the designated value is set based on a receiving capacity of the server (col. 8, lines 8-9, “number of new sessions that the server can handle with the remaining resources”).

In considering claim 3, Cherkasova discloses a server comprising:

Shaper value setting means for setting a shaper (i.e. threshold) value based on a receiving capacity of said server; and

Shaper means for comparing the shaper value to an amount of received load corresponding to received data transferred from a plurality of clients, and judging whether part of the received data transferred from the plurality of clients should be rejected.

(col. 5, lines 49-53, “if the utilization rises above a specified threshold, then for the next time interval, the admission controller 14 will reject all new sessions,” thereby controlling the received load).

However, Cherkasova does not explicitly state that the received data is necessarily “discarded.” Instead, the system taught by Cherkasova describes that if the

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system is above threshold, the excessive messages are “unaccepted” and thus the connections are “refused.” Col. 3, lines 30-33, 38-41. Cherkasova additionally discloses that “refused connections often result in aborted sessions.” Col. 3, lines 41-42. Thus, while not explicitly using the word “discard”, these actions of “refusing,” “not accepting,” and “aborting,” requests or sessions when the load exceeds a threshold at least suggest getting rid of, or discarding, unwanted load caused by the client requests. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of “discarding” packets instead of deferring them, because immediate discarding of packets would eliminate the need for extra deferral resources at the server. Thus, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 4, Cherkasova further discloses that the shaper means rejects the part of the received data that exceeds the threshold based on the judged result (col. 5, lines 58-62, wherein unaccepted messages are sent to the deferral manager). Again, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, instead of deferring them, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 6, Cherkasova further discloses a server in accordance with claim 4, wherein:

When said shaper judges that the amount of said received load exceeds said shaper value and rejects a part of the received data, a part of said received data is rejected from a packet including a low priority by utilizing a QoS based on an order of priority to each of said received data (col. 3, lines 20-25, "quality of service"; and col. 5, lines 9-21, describing that certain message packets are accepted before others, thereby establishing packet priority. Again, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, instead of deferring them, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 8, Cherkasova further discloses that the server judges whether a part of the received data should be rejected based on the judged result (col. 5, lines 51-53). Again, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, instead of deferring them, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 9, Cherkasova further discloses that the designated value is set based on a receiving capacity of the server (col. 8, lines 8-9, "number of new sessions that the server can handle with the remaining resources").

In considering claim 10, claim 10 presents a network system (i.e. a server and plurality of clients connected through a network) for performing the same steps as claim

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3. Therefore, because Cherkasova also discloses a network system, the claim is rejected under the same rationale as claim 3.

In considering claim 11, Cherkasova further discloses that the shaper means rejects a part of the received data when the amount of the received load exceeds the threshold value (col. 5, lines 51-53). Again, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, instead of deferring them, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 13, claim 13 presents the same limitation as claim 6, and is thus rejected for the same reasons.

In considering claim 14, Cherkasova discloses a received load control method at a network system in which a server connects to plural clients through a network, comprising:

Setting a shaper value ("threshold") based on a receiving capacity of the server (col. 5, lines 44-51);

Comparing the shaper value to an amount of received load corresponding to received data transferred from the plural clients (col. 5, line 51, "if the utilization rises above a specified threshold"); and

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Rejecting a part of the received data exceeding the threshold value when the amount of the received load exceeds the threshold value (col. 5, lines 52-53, "reject all new sessions").

However, Cherkasova does not explicitly state that the received data is necessarily "discarded." Instead, the system taught by Cherkasova describes that if the system is above threshold, the excessive messages are "unaccepted" and thus the connections are "refused." Col. 3, lines 30-33, 38-41. Cherkasova additionally discloses that "refused connections often result in aborted sessions." Col. 3, lines 41-42. Thus, while not explicitly using the word "discard", these actions of "refusing," "not accepting," and "aborting," requests or sessions when the load exceeds a threshold at least suggest getting rid of, or discarding, unwanted load caused by the client requests. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of "discarding" packets instead of deferring them, because immediate discarding of packets would eliminate the need for extra deferral resources at the server. Thus, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 16, claim 16 presents a method for performing the same step as described in claim 13, and is thus rejected for the same reasons.

In considering claim 17, Cherkasova further discloses that the shaper and utilization values can be determined by equipment disposed outside of the server (i.e. proxy server, col. 10, line 55 – col. 11, line 11).

In considering claim 19, Cherkasova further discloses means for judging whether a part of said received data should be rejected (col. 5, lines 51-53, "if the utilization rises above a specified threshold...reject all new sessions"). However, Cherkasova does not explicitly state that the received data is necessarily "discarded."

Instead, the system taught by Cherkasova describes that if the system is above threshold, the excessive messages are "unaccepted" and thus the connections are "refused." Col. 3, lines 30-33, 38-41. Cherkasova additionally discloses that "refused connections often result in aborted sessions." Col. 3, lines 41-42. Thus, while not explicitly using the word "discard", these actions of "refusing," "not accepting," and "aborting," requests or sessions when the load exceeds a threshold at least suggest getting rid of, or discarding, unwanted load caused by the client requests. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of "discarding" packets instead of deferring them, because immediate discarding of packets would eliminate the need for extra deferral resources at the server. Thus, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 21, Cherkasova further discloses outputting the value to a shaper and that the shaper means rejects a remaining part of the amount of received data that exceeds the shaper value based on the judged result (col. 5, lines 58-62, wherein unaccepted messages are sent to the deferral manager). Again, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, instead of deferring them, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

In considering claim 24, Cherkasova further discloses a server, comprising:

A comparator that compares an amount of receive load corresponding to received data transferred from plural clients with a designated value (col. 5, lines 43-45); and

A judger that judges whether a part of said received data should be rejected,

Wherein said server controls said received load corresponding to said received data transferred from said plural clients based on a judged result of said judger (col. 5, lines 49-53, "if the utilization rises above a specified threshold, then for the next time interval, the admission controller 14 will reject all new sessions," thereby controlling the received load by rejecting part of the requests).

However, Cherkasova does not explicitly state that the received data is necessarily "discarded." Instead, the system taught by Cherkasova describes that if the system is above threshold, the excessive messages are "unaccepted" and thus the connections are "refused." Col. 3, lines 30-33, 38-41. Cherkasova additionally

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discloses that "refused connections often result in aborted sessions." Col. 3, lines 41-42. Thus, while not explicitly using the word "discard", these actions of "refusing," "not accepting," and "aborting," requests or sessions when the load exceeds a threshold at least suggest getting rid of, or discarding, unwanted load caused by the client requests. A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of "discarding" packets instead of deferring them, because immediate discarding of packets would eliminate the need for extra deferral resources at the server. Thus, it would have been obvious for the admission controller in Cherkasova to discard packets when the load is above a threshold, to eliminate the additional resources required for the deferral manager.

4. Claims 5, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherkasova, in view of Fodor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,104, hereinafter "Fodor").

In considering claim 5, although the system taught by Cherkasova teaches substantial features of the claimed invention, it does not teach the claimed early packet discard feature. Nonetheless, early packet discard features are well known in load balancing systems, as evidenced by Fodor. Fodor describes a load balancing system for limiting the number of packets received at servers throughout the network, wherein one method used to limit the number of packets is early packet discard (col. 1, line 58 – col. 2, line 8). Given the teaching of Fodor, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of using early packet

discard for the requests in the system taught by Cherkasova, to eliminate receipt of unnecessary message packets, thereby saving additional bandwidth at the server.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to use early packet discard for the data packets taught by Cherkasova.

In considering claim 12, claim 12, presents the same limitation as claim 5, and is thus rejected for the same reasons.

In considering claim 15, claim 15 presents a method for performing the same step as described in claim 12, and is thus rejected for the same reasons.

Response to Arguments

In Applicant's response filed on April 19, 2004, the following arguments are noted:

- a. The first Office action erroneously interprets some of the claims to include limitations that are not recited in the claims.
- b. Cherkasova does not necessarily disclose or suggest a server that "compares the amount of said received load corresponding to said received data with a designated value and judges whether a part of said received data should be discarded based on said judged result."

c. Cherkasova does not necessarily disclose or suggest a “comparing means for comparing an amount of received load corresponding to received data transferred from plural clients with a designated value,” as claimed in claim 1.

In considering (a), Applicant contends that the first Office action erroneously interprets some of the claims to include limitations that are not recited in the claims. Examiner respectfully disagrees, because the claims that were interpreted in the first Office action were ambiguous. Examiner’s interpretation was within the range of possible meanings of the ambiguous claim language submitted by Applicant. Nonetheless, this point is now moot because these claims have been amended to avoid the ambiguities and thus avoid the necessity for Examiner to interpret the ambiguities.

In considering (b), Applicant contends that Cherkasova does not necessarily disclose or suggest a server that “compares the amount of said received load corresponding to said received data with a designated value and judges whether a part of said received data should be discarded based on said judged result.” Applicant further elaborates that Cherkasova specifically discloses that discarding packets is undesirable, and that the admission controller of Cherkasova only determines whether adequate system resources are available in the server when the new request message does not correspond to a session that is identified in the transaction list, so that Cherkasova teaches away from Applicant’s invention. Examiner respectfully disagrees with all of these assertions.

First, regarding the issue of Cherkasova disclosing an undesirability to discard packets, while Cherkasova's system does discuss a desirability of a system to respond to *all* messages, Cherkasova's system also discusses that the prior art well known systems did in fact discard packets that could not be handled by a host (col. 2, lines 30-32, "also, the messages which are not admitted to the host are generally not handled at all"). Thus, Cherkasova's system actually improves on the prior art method of discarding packets, rather than teaching away from it.

Second, regarding the issue of determining when adequate system resources are available, Cherkasova discloses the claimed step of comparing the amount of received load corresponding to the received data with a designated value (it compares the "server utilization" with a "threshold." This is clear from the disclosure of Cherkasova.

In considering (c), Applicant contends that Cherkasova does not necessarily disclose or suggest a "comparing means for comparing an amount of received load corresponding to received data transferred from plural clients with a designated value," as claimed in claim 1. Again, Examiner respectfully disagrees, because Cherkasova discloses comparing the amount of client load at a server to a "threshold."

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

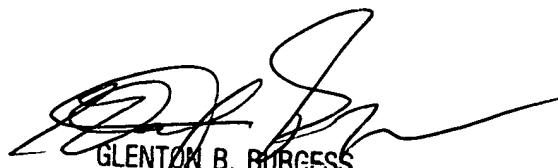
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Edelman whose telephone number is (703) 306-3041. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

For all correspondences: (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

BE
August 4, 2004


GLEN B. BURGESS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100